


Finding a Way to Stay in the Village

Kathleen Lauder
Country Consultant
klauder@worldrenew.net

World Renew Canada
3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
1-800-730-3490
Fax: 905-336-8344

World Renew US
1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
1-800-552-7972
Fax: 616-224-8060

worldrenew.net/cambodia
 @worldrenew_cam



In Cambodia, the pull is strong for people to migrate from their rural communities to cities like Phnom Penh, and neighboring countries like Thailand, where jobs are available with a steady wage. Unable to earn a living wage in their communities, men and women leave their families to survive. **This migration impacts healthy community development, as able-bodied women and men depart, disrupting and stressing already-struggling families.**

World Renew and its local Cambodian partner, OREDA, have initiated various interventions to contribute to solving this development challenge. The story of Mrs. Chreb Ou illustrates the impact of these interventions.

Thirty-one year old Chreb Ou lives in Khvan village, two hours west of Phnom Penh. In the past, Chreb and her family migrated in order to find jobs, working in construction, a garment factory, and on a large plantation. The stress of living far from home and community supports had left her children in poor health and contributed to family stress and even violence. Her children's medical bills alone used the extra income they earned in migration, leaving them in a cycle of great distress.

Written by Sokly Sorn, Partner staff

Translated by Kao Sok, World Renew staff

In 2013, community leaders selected Chreb's family to receive a new family pond as part of a World Renew development project in her village. Chreb's husband had an opportunity to participate in a farmer exchange visit, where he learned about vegetable growing and fish raising. He was inspired by what he saw and learned. Inspired by their opportunities to improve their livelihood on their land, Chreb and her husband decided not to migrate, but to stay in the community. Their life started to change. They started to grow various crops such as long beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, and a species of morning glory, otherwise known as water spinach, common in Southeast Asian cuisine. They also raised fish in their new pond.

The well-being of Chreb's family has improved. They earn income from selling vegetables and fish. They have reduced their food expenses and the cost of their medical care. There is no violence in the family anymore. Their children are happier. They plan to build a new house in the near future. Chreb knows first-hand the strain migration puts on a family. "I am committed to continue vegetable growing," she says, "and willing to share my experience with others in the community."



Prayer Requests

- World Renew will be hosting eight visitors from the USA and Canada on a discovery tour in Cambodia from November 2 to 13. Please pray for the good organization of that tour. Pray that all participants will be richly blessed by what they see, hear, and learn. Pray also that the communities they visit will be blessed by their visit.
- World Renew will be doing a mid-term review of its Strategic Plan. In Cambodia, our major donor, Mission Alliance, has advised us that they will soon be ending their funding to World Renew and funding local partners directly. With more of our participants migrating to urban areas, there is an increased need to address issues such as safe migration, alcoholism, and debt. We are also helping our farmers to move up the value chain through the creation of producer groups and agricultural co-ops. Please pray for wisdom as we seek to adapt our programs to the rapidly-changing context in Cambodia.
- World Renew and Resonate Global Missions (formerly Christian Reformed World Missions) have a strong relationship in Cambodia. We have worked together on many initiatives. This year we are taking that partnership to a new level with increased involvement of Resonate Global Missions in World Renew's work with churches, and increased support from Resonate Global Missions to support our staff in strengthening their Christian faith. Please pray for our partnership to continue to grow and to be fruitful.



The Discovery Tour includes a visit to a village that has organized to protect its mangrove trees and fishing livelihood. Visitors explore the area by boat.



Ms. Lyly Yos is one of World Renew's model farmers who has been trained and supported to develop a multi-purpose farm used to teach other farmers how to improve their agriculture production. World Renew will link these farmers to the market to get a good price for their products.



Meeting with CLCDA Resonate Global Mission staff, World Renew senior staff, and the steering committee of a learning network of churches supported by World Renew since 2002 meet to plan a joint program to strengthen these churches to be salt and light in their communities.



Resonate Global Mission staff work with World Renew staff and their families at a spiritual retreat, led by Joyce Suh.